

Disagreement Over Team Selection

BARRY DARVILL HANDS IN HIS NOTICE

Wycombe threaten strike to save coach

By MICHAEL MELANIPHY

THE WHOLE first team of Wycombe Wanderers, strongly fancied for the FA Amateur Cup, have threatened to resign unless coach Barry Darvill is reinstated and given full selection powers tonight.

The players had refused to play Corinthian-Casuals at Loakes Park in the Isthmian League on Saturday. But they agreed to play on the understanding that the committee would reconsider Darvill's position.

Wycombe accepted 35-year-old Darvill's resignation because they would not agree to his request to see the four-man selection committee.

Wycombe secretary Bill Hayter said: "If our committee stand by their policy and the team resign, we will pick our sides from about 30 reserves for the rest of the season."

Worrying

"Nothing like this has happened since the club was formed in 1884. It has been a most worrying time. We want to get back to the happy atmosphere that has always existed here."

Wycombe are the highest-scoring team in the Isthmian League, and the best-supported amateur club in England.

Thousands watched their FA Cup first-round marathon with Bedford, which went to four matches before the Southern League professionals won.

The Wycombe team includes two England caps, centre-forward Paul Bates, their captain, and winger Len Worley.

By "CHILTERN"

BARRY DARVILL, Wycombe Wanderers' team manager, this week handed in his resignation to the club. Up to the time of going to press yesterday, neither Darvill nor the club would make any comment.

On Wednesday Darvill told me: "Yes, it's true. But I have nothing to add until the club makes an official statement."

And after a special meeting of the committee on Wednesday, club secretary Bill Hayter commented: "There's nothing to say at this time."

I understand unofficially that the trouble arose over selection of the first team for the game at Oxford on Tuesday.

It is believed that pressure had been put on Darvill for team changes after Wycombe's recent poor form, and that the manager himself wanted to keep the same side together.

After a dressing room discussion Peter Eyres went out to play at left-back. Peter Roystone was dropped. And Eyres has been selected for tomorrow's home game with Corinthian Casuals with Roystone twelfth man.

But the matter is by no means settled yet. The club and the manager still have to get together to discuss the situation.

POPULAR

Barry Darvill has proved a most popular coach/team manager with the players, and in his two years at Loakes Park he has steered Wanderers from the foot of the Isthmian League to their present fourth place.

Last season the club finished equal fourth and reached the quarter final of the Amateur Cup.

Barry Darvill's policy has always been to play what he has considered his best 11 players. And on the whole this has paid off.

Even when a section of the club's supporters called for changes earlier this season he stood by his guns. His faith in his side was proved during Wanderers' grand show in the F.A. Cup 1st round marathon with Bedford.

I understand, again unofficially, that the club now feels the time is ripe to pursue its youth policy, and bring one or two less experienced players into the side.